



# The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

OCTOBER 2018

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## Sow in tears, but reap rejoicing

*Because I was used to listening to Him and I took the time to do so, I was able to hear His voice at a time when I desperately needed it.*

In June of 2013 when I retired, I was excited to spend more time being with the Lord, my husband, and my family. Travel was on the agenda. Getting the house organized. I’m an artist and I had been an art teacher. I was going to do my own artwork.

Then, at Christmas of 2014, my husband Dan died of an unexpected heart attack. In that moment, everything changed.

God, in His mercy, has been so very faithful and so very

present in my life over the years since then. He has spoken to me in Scripture, song, sermons, in books (both spiritual and secular), over Catholic radio, and in conversations with friends. I also heard His voice, not audibly, but in my mind. Because I was used to listening to Him and I took the time to do so, I was able to hear His voice at a time when I desperately needed it.

When I first realized my husband was gone, I heard a

musical phrase: “For both in life and death we belong to God...” I held tightly onto that musical phrase, repeating it over and over. Soon after, I found assurance in this scripture from Mark: “Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.” (Mark 6:50)

God taught me many things as the year went on.

### 1. Don’t hide

There was a tendency to stay at home and not interact with people. When I began to venture out into

“We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.” - Mission Statement of Christ the King

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# On grief and loss

*One of the reasons why the Lord Jesus gives us brothers and sisters is precisely so that we can carry each other when we need to; we were never, never intended to fly solo.*

Previous page: *Reaping the Harvest* by Claudia Burns. Used with permission.

This page: Sculpture *Consolation* by Joe Rosenthal in Odette Sculpture Park, Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Photographer: Matt Glaman, Kenosha, WI, July 12, 2008, via Wikimedia Commons.



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

## **She was a sweetheart:**

funny, personable, a joy to all who met her, and, in the face of her great suffering and eventual death, truly a witness to the power of the King of Kings in her life. Though this could perhaps be applied to many, I am speaking in particular of Bridget, the daughter of Louise and Brian Smith and the granddaughter of Dcn. Dan and Dolly Foley.

I had known Bridget virtually all her life and had been very blessed in knowing her. As her health began to fail and it looked like the end was nearing, I was involved with visiting her and the family. I was honored to be able to be a concelebrant at her funeral, presided over by Fr. John Riccardo, who did his usual spectacular job of bringing the Lord Jesus' presence to all who were present there.

**After the funeral,** as I was walking up to her graveside service, my phone rang. It was my parish staff at Christ the King informing me that Peter Campbell had just been found dead. He had died some time during the night, of causes that were never fully identified.

I had known Peter all his life. He and I used to work out together; in fact we had



done so the night before he died. That night we didn't actually work out because he wasn't feeling well, but that was all right because he had just spent the weekend with his girlfriend, introducing her to family and friends and bringing her to Christ the King. He was so excited and happy about how the weekend had gone that he just wanted to talk about it. At first, he could only just sit there and grin; he was so excited and happy, he didn't know where to begin. Finally, I told him he needed to say something before his head exploded!

It was a wonderful time seeing this young man so happy as he shared about this great relationship that was so crucial in his life. That was my last memory of him. The news of his death shortly

after that hit me like a ton of bricks.

**But then,** as I was walking into the narthex at Christ the King preparing to celebrate his funeral Mass, someone came up to me and asked if I'd heard that Ken Wilson's wife Nancy had just been found dead in their home. I had known Ken for years. In his role as pastor of the Emmaus Fellowship in the Word of God, we had many meetings as the pastoral staff of the four fellowships used to meet regularly. I had gotten to know him over the years and valued his friendship. His wife Nancy was a great woman of God and had been used wonderfully by the Lord Jesus to build His Kingdom. This unexpected loss to this friend of mine was hard to bear.

Then not long after, Pope Benedict resigned. That was like another death. My Papa had quit.

One of the "disadvantages" of being stationed at the same parish for so long, i.e. 25+ years as pastor of Christ the King, is that you get to know a lot of people so well that when tragedy strikes their lives, it isn't just happening to "someone in the parish." It is happening to people you have known and

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# Sow in tears, but reap rejoicing

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the world alone after the funeral, I heard Him say that He would help me figure out “A New Normal.”

And soon after: “I invite you to take My hand. Allow Me to accompany you on the journey ahead. There is abundant grace available for you.”

## 2. Embrace grief

My grieving is not only for Dan, but also “the hopes, dreams, wishes, and unfulfilled expectations I had for and with him,” as it says in one of my many grief books. It takes a while. And busyness just puts grief off ‘til later. I learned that my tears and sadness are a normal part of the grief work that I need to do and that I shouldn’t avoid it.

God’s assurance was: “You feel like you are in the wilderness. I tell you I am the fire traveling before you to guide you. Trust Me and the love I have for you and I will not allow you to go astray.”

## 3. Make prayer a priority

That busyness I mentioned before. That’s me – always doing. And sometimes those things were at the expense of prayer. I heard God say: “Slow down. Don’t neglect your time with Me. Consult with Me about your schedule. You will find your fruitfulness increase. You will grow in peace and your anxieties will drop away.”

In a sermon one day there was talk of weariness. We were weary because we had taken on burdens that we didn’t need to be bearing, that Jesus would gladly bear if we gave them over to Him. I could give

*My grieving is not only for Dan, but also “the hopes, dreams, wishes, and unfulfilled expectations I had for and with him...”*

Him my anxieties, my sadness, my weariness. I could let go.

## 4. Be willing to go deeper

Jesus is drawing me into a deeper, closer relationship. And it’s not just me. It’s each of us. There is a song that I’ve been drawn to lately called “Oceans”:

“I will call upon your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise...

“Spirit, lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters  
Wherever you would call me.”

## 5. I have work to do

As I am drawn closer to Him, deeper into His love, He is calling me to walk upon the waters, to do His will, to not fear the future. He has work

for me to do. Old Testament scriptures from Nahum and Zechariah invite me to:

“Draw water for the siege,  
Strengthen your forts,  
Trample the clay,  
Tread the mortar,  
Take hold of the brick mold” (Nahum 3:14).

“Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong” (Zechariah 8:13).

At the beginning of the Year of Mercy, I needed assurance that He was there for me. This is what He said:

“I will show My face to you and it IS a face of mercy, of complete mercy and love.

For I long to draw you to My Sacred Heart, to dry your tears and comfort you.

When you come up against an obstacle, a mountain that seems too high,  
Come to Me, first thing, and I will be your guide.

I desire that you submit your energies and your efforts to Me.

I will shape them according to My will and My plan.

The fruit you bear will be My fruit. The song you sing will be My song.

Trust Me.

For My love is greater than you can imagine.”

—Claudia Burns

*Jesus is drawing me into a deeper, closer relationship. And it’s not just me. It’s each of us.*



Claudia Burns is head of the Liturgical Art Committee at Christ the King. She wrote the icons of St. Mark and St. Luke that are next to the tabernacle. This article first appeared in January 2016 in Upper Room’s blog, *The Promise Is to You*.



*The scandals within the Church represent another kind of loss, a loss of trust. As Christ's Body dealing with these scandals, we are experiencing the stages of grief. Does hope have a place in this?*



John Macari is a CTK parishioner and a Limited Licensed Psychologist with over 30 years experience providing individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, trauma recovery, conflict resolution, and other interventions, using principles of cognitive behavioral therapy informed by his Christian faith. He currently provides outpatient counseling to individuals, couples, and families in the community at the Family Counseling Center in Ann Arbor.

## "Good grief"

### As Christians, we grieve, but not as the world does

**The longer we live**, the more losses we experience. Life well-lived can be seen as a cycle of joys and sorrows, inspiration and pain; gains and losses. There is a time and season for everything.

Many of us are familiar with the stages of grief, which include denial, anger, depression, bargaining, and acceptance. These stages have served as a very helpful roadmap for many people in the process of resolving grief.

As Christians, we grieve, but not as the world does. St. Paul writes that he wants us to be aware that those who have died believing in the Lord Jesus will share in His resurrection "so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope." (1 Thess. 4:13). As Christians, we have a particular responsibility to maintain an abiding sense of hope underlying our grief. This can be called "good grief."

**Many of us** have endured losses of loved ones through death. There are other more subtle losses, such as the loss of financial security, family break ups, and the loss of mental or physical abilities.

The scandals within the Church represent another kind of loss, a loss of trust. One of our most fundamen-

tal needs is to be able to trust those in authority. When those in whom we trust betray us, we are hurt, angry, and disillusioned. We feel empathy toward victims and demand justice for the perpetrators.

*As Christians, we have a particular responsibility to maintain an abiding sense of hope underlying our grief.*

As Christ's Body dealing with these scandals, we are experiencing the stages of grief: from shock to panic, from sadness to temptations to despair. We feel righteous indignation. For some it is truly a crisis of faith. Does hope have a place in this?

Only in the power of the Holy Spirit can St. Paul say, "I count all things to be loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish that I may gain Christ." (Phil. 3:8). How do we "gain Christ" in our suffering and loss?

**We gain Him** by knowing Him and Who He is. He is Lord, Messiah and King; Son of God, Merciful Savior. He is also "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief." (Is. 53:3). He has known suffering, loss, and betrayal and is with us in our pain.

As God's children, grief is an opportunity to join in the sufferings of His Son. We learn to humbly accept our cross. We realize our absolute dependence on Christ, *without whom we can do nothing* (see John 15:5). We develop empathy for those who grieve, because like Christ, we have been there. We live the word of St. James: "Consider it joy when you face trials. The testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature, complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:2-4)

Therein lies "good grief": hope *especially* in the midst of loss; believing that with every cross, there is a resurrection. For every sin, there is mercy. For every death, there is new life. For every loss, there is gain when we grieve as God's children, redeemed by His suffering and set free by His rising. — *John Macari, MS, LLP*

# Recovering my identity as a son of God

*For most men, their work is a large part of their identity.*

*Losing my job was a kick in the gut.*

In May of 2001, at the height of a successful career in software development, I lost my job as a project manager. It was unexpected, painful, and devastating. For most men, their work is a large part of their identity as the provider and protector of the family. Losing my job was a kick in the gut.

I had two recurring dreams that seemed very real to me. In the first dream, I was laid out as a corpse. I had died because of the loss of my identity (my job). In the other dream, I found myself in a dark hallway with eight doors. To my horror, all the doors were locked. I could find no way out!

My former employer offered me a small severance package and paid for some classes to re-tool for a new job. Within a few months, I had applied for 30 jobs, but had no solid offers.

**Then the bottom fell out** with the September 11th attacks. The sputtering economy tanked and within a month 100,000 IT professionals were out of work in Michigan alone. This blow made it difficult to keep my sinking hope alive.

I increased my prayers for work and talked to many other men in my situation. I went on a week-long retreat to pray, rest, and reconsider all my options.

I decided to create a "Job Seekers" group at Christ the King

with the help of another parishioner. We met twice a month to pray, share ideas, advice and strategies, and offer encouragement to one another. This broke my sense of isolation and powerlessness. The group grew to 10-12 regular attendees and the fellowship took the sting out of our lack of work.

I sent out hundreds of resumes and filled out as many job applications—to no avail. I took on some part-time jobs to supplement my dwindling resources and get away from the constant effort to find work, which helped a lot.

I had done some house painting in my 20s and took on many of those jobs. As my income picked up with this work, I decided to try it full-time as my own business venture. This proved to be a new and satisfying line of work, something I had never considered. This work was my pride and joy until I retired 2 years ago. More importantly, I recovered my identity as a son of God.



*Within a few months, I had applied for 30 jobs, but had no solid offers. Then the bottom fell out with the September 11th attacks.*

**If anyone finds themselves unemployed**, I recommend the following:

1. Pray fervently everyday for employment with your spouse or another close friend and solicit the prayers of others.
2. Create a new household budget to stretch your savings as long as possible.
3. Create a job search plan and execute this as your current job at least 40 hours a week.
4. Share your burden with others looking for work and encourage one another. Do not lose hope!

— Gary Gibson



Gary and Ellen Gibson will soon celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary. They have five children and ten grandchildren.

## When it rains, it pours

*In a span of three years, I lost both my parents to cancer and my wife of 25 years divorced me. My former life had died against my will.*

*At the request of my ex-wife, I filled out the marriage questionnaire for an annulment. It was the most intensely painful and healing examination of conscience that I have ever experienced.*



Jeff and Monique Schwehm are members of Christ the King and were married in June of 2018. Jeff entered the Church in 2003 after being a member of the Lutheran Church for seven years, but he spent most of his life as a Jehovah's Witness. He is currently an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Concordia University in Ann Arbor.

**My mother died** on Jan. 22, 2012, after a five-month battle with lung cancer. In September of 2012, my father was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He died on Sept. 28, 2013. On Sept. 13, 2013, my two-year-old niece, Morgan, was diagnosed with cancer. (Morgan is doing well now.) As if that was not enough, my wife of 25 years left me in 2014 and divorced me in 2015.

It was now the summer of 2015, and I was trying to process all the grief associated with that series of big losses in a span of three years. I was hurting financially, and my family and I were still mourning the loss of our parents and worrying whenever Morgan went to the hospital. I was emotionally spent most days; life felt like a chore at best. Some days I considered getting out of bed to be a major success.

At the request of my ex-wife, I filled out the marriage questionnaire for an annulment. It was the most intensely painful and healing examination of conscience that I have ever experienced. The annulment was granted in September of 2015.

**I can only describe** the feelings of loss as something like feeling that a part of you has died. My former life had died against my will. I would not

wish a divorce on my worst enemy. Dealing with the grief of a divorce is bad enough, but dealing with that and the other losses in my life at that time was extremely difficult. I started having problems sleeping, eating, and other health problems, to say nothing of the depression that encompassed me.

*I am not sure we ever get completely over such deep wounds ... However, I know that God walked with me during that time and is walking with me still.*

At the advice of my doctors, I started eating better, exercising more, and getting better sleep. I made it a goal to take better care of myself physically during this time. This helped with my overall feeling of well-being and helped to control the incredible stress that I was experiencing.

**Attending Mass and prayer** gave me the connection to God and others that kept me functioning. Frequent Confession and a good Catholic therapist also helped, particularly when I felt tempted to despair and the intense feelings of grief

and loneliness were overwhelming me.

I started praying regularly in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel during this time, and on a couple of occasions, I heard the Lord's voice. Nothing audible, but God's loving voice spoke to me in my heart whenever I was in desperate need of hope, encouragement, and connection to someone who loved me.

**Grief and loss** are funny things. Even now there are times that I still mourn the loss of that previous life. I am not sure we ever completely get over such deep wounds as losing a loved one in death or a marriage to divorce. However, I know that God walked with me during that time and is walking with me still.

I am grateful for the lessons that I learned during this time. I learned to pray and have gotten to know the Lord much better because of His great love and support during such a difficult time. I also heard the Lord's call to discern a vocation with the Secular Carmelites, and in June of this year, He joined me to my beautiful Catholic wife Monique in Holy Matrimony. The Lord has been gracious and merciful to me. — *Jeff Schwehm*



# “Weep with those who weep”

*I am here to tell you that your grief is important, no matter how small it seems.*

**I had a hysterectomy** two weeks before my 27th birthday. At 26, I was 16 years younger than the national average of 42 to have this procedure. There were complications after our second daughter was born, and it took multiple surgeries and four excruciating, grueling months to wrap my brain around the idea that there was no other way out.

My daughter’s birth opened a period of grieving that is still going on, and I am not sure it will ever be over. Grief is strange like that. For me the hard thing about grieving is that it is not linear. Or cyclical. Or predictable in any way. It comes in like strong ocean waves when I am least expecting it.

In the world of psychology this is sometimes called a “Sudden Temporary Upsurge in Grief,” and the acronym sounds exactly how I feel on those days: STUG. STUG when I see a pregnant mom, glowing with beauty and new life; STUG when a friend casually asks when we will “have another one”; STUG when I give away baby clothes that we do not need anymore... and on and on. There may be precursors I can recognize, like anniversaries of my surgeries or knowing I will meet a new baby, but for the most part I have no idea how things in my daily life will



***I have found it does not help to compare and contrast my grief with others’.***

***Grieving is too personal for that.***

affect me or if they will stir up painful feelings and memories.

**I will tell you honestly** that I have very few answers. I do not know why these things happen to us or how to “get over” grief. I have found it does not help to compare and contrast my grief with others’. Grieving is too personal for that.

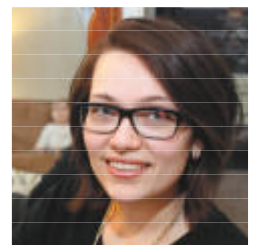
The best answer I have comes from St. Paul: “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Rom. 12:15.) This verse is so freeing.

It helps me first to be unafraid to sit with others in their grief, but also it frees me to share mine.

We have all been through hard things in life: loss, disappointment, mental health issues, physical health issues, death, separation, etc., etc., etc. Yet I feel like it is these experiences in life that are most often swept under that proverbial rug. Something inside you tells you that you should be “over it” by now or that it is “not that big of a deal.”

**I am here to tell you** that your grief is important, no matter how small it seems. Maybe take this moment to resolve to listen more patiently to those who are grieving or to share your own grief more openly. God is not afraid of our grief. The more we share with one another, I truly believe the less afraid of grief we will become. — *Tirienne Leonard*

*For me the hard thing about grieving is that it is not linear. Or cyclical. Or predictable in any way. It comes in like strong ocean waves when I am least expecting it.*



Tirienne Leonard has been a CTK parishioner for nine years. Four years ago she married her wonderful husband, Jeff, and they have two daughters. Tirienne is an avid cook and loves to write, sing, and ride her bike.

*Carrying around serious grief on your own is not the way out. Beating yourself up because you're not "spiritual" enough to just shake it off is not the way out.*

## On grief and loss

Continued from page 2

loved for years. When you are relating to 900+ families, that can add up to an awful lot of tragedies.

**In this case**, for me, it was overwhelming, literally. Typically, after some kind of serious emotional blow, I would bounce back after a couple of weeks, but this time there was no bouncing. I gave it some more time; still no bounce.

Eventually, with some good advice, I decided to see a counselor to get some help with all this grief. That was a God-send. Carrying around serious grief on your own is not the way out. Beating



yourself up because you're not "spiritual" enough to just shake it off is not the way out. Stiff-upper-lipping it, trying to look good while you're dying inside is not the way out.

**One of the reasons** why the Lord Jesus gives us

brothers and sisters is precisely so that we can carry each other when we need to; we were never, never intended to fly solo. If we need help, we should get help.

As we reflect on grief and loss and how to respond, I thought that adding something from my own experience might help folks trying to decide how to deal with grief and loss in their own lives. I hope this was helpful. May the Divine Physician touch all our hearts! — *Fr. Ed Fride*

## From grief and tragedy to action: The SEALs and I

**August 6, 2011.** A helicopter was shot down carrying 22 SEALs (members of the US Navy Special Operations Force), including the nephew of a dear friend. I went to his funeral and there met several of the SEALs.

Over the next few days, spending time with them, I felt the Lord Jesus calling me to do something for them. He began to show me that He was raising up intercessors to pray for the different military branches, and I felt that He was call-



ing me to intercede for the SEALs.

Because this would involve a fairly substantial prayer commitment, I subjected this to careful discernment, including a "fleece" involving the SEAL Commander nominating me to the SEAL Association, a highly unlikely event!

However, all the discernment was positive. I was notified on January 15 that I was appointed to the SEAL Association, the discernment green light necessary to begin praying for them. Because January 15 is also the anniversary of my becoming pastor of CTK, I believe that showed that the Lord Jesus was also inviting the parish to join me in intercession for these men, which, from time to time, I have invited folks to do. — *Fr. Ed Fride*



# “I don’t know what to say!”

*Everyone’s experience of grief is different, but there are still things we can do to support those going through a deep loss.*

**Almost all of us** have experienced at some point the awkwardness of wanting to support someone who is dealing with the death of a loved one or other deep loss, but not being sure what to do or say. That’s due partly to the fact that every situation is different: personalities, circumstances, and our relationship with the bereaved all combine to create a unique situation to which we must respond.

Nonetheless, there are still things we can do to support those going through a deep loss. Here are some ideas gathered from suggestions offered by some of our CTK parishioners.

## **Immediately after the loss** **DO**

- **Let them know that you are praying for them and their loved one.** Almost everyone mentioned how important it was to hear that people were praying. Whether you offer a brief word, a Mass card, an email, a text—they all offer comfort and support at a time when it is desperately needed.
- **Attend the funeral services.** You don’t have to talk directly to the bereaved, but sign the guest book. They will look at it later and be glad you came.
- **Be honest.** Simply acknowledging that you don’t know what to say, but want to be there for them, can be helpful.
- **Take the time to listen.** Some people want to share stories about their loved one. Others are in too much shock or pain to talk. Listen, pray quietly, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you follow their lead.
- **Give them permission.** The range of feelings when a loved one dies is indescribable. Giving your friend permission to have any kind of feeling in your presence—sorrow, anger, etc.—can be very comforting.
- **Acknowledge their pain.** Avoid minimizing what they are going through by comparing their situation with others or “looking for the silver lining.” (See the “DON’T”s further below.)
- **Share your memories and stories of the loved one.** He or she has been an important part of both of your lives. Using the loved one’s name and sharing memories acknowledges that truth for both of you.

## **DON’T**



- **Don’t compare what they’re going through to your or anyone else’s experience.** Even if you have been through a similar experience, you don’t know what they’re going through. Each person’s experience of grief is unique.
- **Don’t say, “It’s God’s will.”** At this time, that statement can be annoying rather than comforting.
- **Don’t offer unsolicited advice.** Although you may be trying to be helpful, this is not the time when the person can hear it. **Exception:** Offer advice only if you are concerned for the person’s safety and well-being.
- **Don’t project into the future.** Statements such as, “You’ll meet someone else” or “You’ll get over it” are not just unhelpful, they can actually be hurtful.

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*People never completely “get over” the deep loss of a loved one. Remember, even the Risen Body of Christ still bears the marks of the wounds.*



Theresa Hofer is Editor of *The Open Door*.

## “I don’t know what to say!”

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### In the first weeks after the funeral

#### DO

- **Continue to pray.** After the initial activity of the funeral is done, prayer is needed more than ever. Remind them with a note or a text that you haven’t forgotten them and you’re still supporting them in prayer.
- **Send a gift card for pizza or carry out.** That will come in handy as they face the next steps.
- **Bring a dinner that can be frozen.** They may have lots of food immediately following the funeral, but at some point later, being able to pull out that frozen dinner will be a big help.
- **Offer to help in specific ways.** Grieving people have a hard time making decisions. Make specific offers of help with very simple choices. For example, “Would you like me to bring dinner on Tuesday or Wednesday?” or “Can I come by on Saturday and mow your lawn?”

#### DON’T

- **Don’t say, “If you need anything, just let me know.”** Grieving people have difficulty reaching out for help. Instead, reach out to them. (See the tips above for specific suggestions.)

- **Don’t assume that someone else is keeping in touch with them.**

After the distracting hustle and bustle of the funeral when other friends and relatives have returned home, that’s when a person may be really hit by their grief. Touch base and see if they’d like to go out for coffee or a bite to eat and to talk. Be willing, though, to also give them space to deal with their thoughts and feelings on their own time.

### In the following months

#### DO

- **Send a note on the month or year anniversary of their loved one’s death.** They will not have forgotten their loved one. It will be a comfort to know that you haven’t forgotten, either.
- **Offer periodically to get together to talk, go walking, see a movie, etc.** It’s easy for the bereaved to become isolated or to stop taking care of themselves. Offering to get together can help them with their need for human contact while at the same time helping them get exercise or just get out.

- **Keep listening.** Being available to listen as the different stages of grief unfold is important. Listen also to the Holy Spirit to help you respond to your friend’s changing needs.

#### DON’T

- **Don’t force them into a specific timeline for processing their grief.** A person can be fine for weeks, months, or even years, and then a stray thought or memory can set off the grief all over again. That’s normal. Just stay with them through it.
- **Don’t say, “You need to get over it.”** People never completely “get over” the deep loss of a loved one. Remember, even the Risen Body of Christ still bears the marks of the wounds.
- **Don’t stop praying!** Your ongoing prayer support is probably the greatest gift you can give to a friend who is grieving.

— Theresa Hofer

Many thanks to all the parishioners whose suggestions contributed to this article. There are too many to list, but you—and Jesus!—know who you are. Some tips were also taken from “64 of the Best Things Ever Said to a Griever,” at [whatsyourgrief.com](http://whatsyourgrief.com).

**Schedule of Major Events**

- 10/6, 11/3: First Saturday Prayer for Evangelization and Priests
- 10/7: Living Rosary
- 10/12, 26: Upper Room
- 10/15: Holy Hour for Marriages
- 10/31: All Saints Eve Party
- 11/1: All Saints Day  
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION  
Parish offices closed
- 11/2: All Souls Day
- 11/2-3: Alpha Day Away

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to [www.ctkcc.net](http://www.ctkcc.net).

**MAJOR EVENTS—OCTOBER 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept. 30	Oct. 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Nov. 1	2	3

**Save the Dates!**

**Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop**

Saturday, Nov. 10, 9am-1pm, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ann Arbor  
We are laying the groundwork for establishing the Stephen Ministry at CTK. A group rate for the workshop is available for 4 or more people registering together from the same parish. Questions? Contact Ann Fons, 734-332-0988.



**Mass for Pregnancy Loss**

Saturday, Nov. 17, 4:30pm  
CTK holds a yearly memorial service for babies lost during pregnancy or immediately after birth. If you have lost a baby, regardless of the circumstances of your pregnancy or your loss, please come and share your grief with the community. Questions? Contact Megan Mishler, [meggymish@1791.com](mailto:meggymish@1791.com).



**Christ the King Parish Mission**

Thursday-Saturday evenings, Nov. 29-Dec. 1  
Plan now to join us as we seek to grow together in the power of the Holy Spirit as disciples of the Lord Jesus!



Check future bulletins for more details about these great events!





## Christ the King Catholic Church

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### Senior Leadership Team

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## Coming in future issues...

- Stewardship
- Hospitality
- Parishioner and ministry profiles

Look for this and more in future issues of

# The Open Door

### Parish Staff

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ckcc.net.

*The Open Door* is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.



*Weeping may tarry  
for the night,  
but joy comes  
with the morning.*

— Psalm 30:5